

George Washington to Tench Tilghman, January 10, 1780, The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL TENCH TILGHMAN**

Morris-town, January 10, 1780, ½ past 7 O'clock P.M.

[Dr. Sir: As the detachment could not be put in motion 'till late this afternoon, when the snow set in pretty briskly, I thought it best to suspend their march till we saw what turn the weather was likely to take.] of this I have given you notice lest forward preparations in the party at present below may betray our design. This delay can be attended with no possible disadvantage if the frost continues while much useful information may in the meantime be had, and the enemy lulled into security; 24 or 36 hours will bring on a thaw, or renewal of the cold; if the first, our project of course ends; if the latter, we shall be able to undertake the enterprize upon more certain intelligence which at present is defective consequently disadvantageous in forming the plan.

Genl. Irvine will be so good as to keep his attention closely fixed to the objects recommended to him; you will write me the result of your present enquiries by return of the bearer and give me your opinion thereupon. Also of the Roads as you found them. 14 Barrels of Salt provisions are ordered on to Genl. Irvine; these are to be held in reserve for the expedition, to be delivered at a proper moment.

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After having possessed yourself of information on the several points essential to be known I shall be glad to see you up along the Chatham road; that it may be more fully and clearly communicated than by letter. Very sincerely and affectly.¹

¹the first part of the draft within the brackets is in the writing of James McHenry.